



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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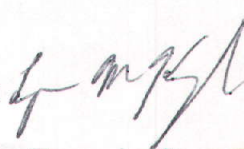
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Michael O. Leavitt
Governor

Lowell P. Braxton
Division Director

August 25, 1998

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Lynn Kunzler, Reclamation Specialist 

RE: Site Inspection, Northern Stone Supply, Turquoise Stone, S/003/020, Box Elder County, Utah

Date of Inspection: August 20, 1998
Time of Inspection: 7:30 p.m.
Conditions: warm and clear
Participants: Gary Mullard, Northern Stone Supply: Lynn Kunzler, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection: To evaluate site conditions and determine acreage of mining related disturbance.

Mr. Mullard had requested this inspection based on his understanding that this operation should be considered a small mining operation (less than 5 acres of disturbance). He felt that the Division had erred in changing the status to a large mining operation using the BLM's calculated 6.5 acres of disturbance. A GPS unit was used to determine the acreage the various quarry and pad areas. Roads were measured using the vehicle odometer and an average width of 12 feet (cut to fill).

Results of the GPS survey shows about 8.0 acres of mine related disturbance. Of this disturbance 3 acres (2.44 acres of Quarry and 0.6 acres of access road) are considered pre-law disturbance. Examination of these areas showed shrubs on the pad and out slopes of these areas that were over 20 years old. It was concluded that these areas have not been utilized for mining activities since 1977. Mr. Mullard was told that these areas would not be counted as part of his disturbed acreage until such time that he decides to go back in and reopen them. These areas will need to be amended to his plan prior to re-activation. This was discussed with Cheryl Martinez of the BLM on August 25, 1998, who concurred with this conclusion.

The remaining 5 acres of mining related disturbance involves a quarry area of 0.42 acres, a pad (storage area) of 0.33 acres, a millsite, work, storage area of 3.33 acres, Pad area (near housing) of .33 acres and 0.6 acres of interconnecting roads (The access road from the highway to this property was not included as part of the mining related disturbance due to it being established well before the effective date of the Mined Land Reclamation Act, and that it is used by other stone operators and the local ranchers.

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It was discussed briefly of moving some stockpiled materials on the lower end of the millsite area closer to the crusher, and reclaiming additional area. This would allow for some expansion in the future without going over the 5-acre limit for a small mining operation. The company is strongly encouraged to reduce the mill site to the extent possible.

Mr. Mullard has completed some reclamation of past disturbances at this site. Because of the pre-existing disturbance at the time the properties were acquired, topsoil is limited. Mr. Mullard has used available topsoil and fines from the operation to establish adequate vegetation cover on a portion of the millsite. Also, he has been involved in removing waste materials that had been sidecast into the stream that runs along the eastern edge of the disturbance and rehabilitating the riparian corridor.

At this time, it is recommended that the Division complete the permitting of this site as a Small Mining Operation. A variance for topsoil salvage and redistribution in the quarry areas is warranted due to the lack of soil material in these areas and that none had been salvaged from past (pre-law) activities. Mr. Mullard should be encouraged to continue to stockpile fines from his operation to use for a substitute soil material for ultimate reclamation.

Several photos were taken to document the site conditions.

jb
cc: Gary Mullard, Operator
Cheryl Martinez, BLM
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